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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, today we sense that our battles are not simply with flesh and blood. We war against principalities and powers. Thank You for providing us with spiritual weapons to defeat carnal foes.

Forgive us when we chase the temporary and flee from the permanent. Empower us to capture our thoughts and actions, making them subject to Your will.

Give our lawmakers today an awareness of the complexity of the great controversy between good and evil. Speak to them when they look to You for guidance. Remind them that truth crushed to earth will rise again. Bless our military sons and daughters in harm's way. We pray this in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The Senator from Massachusetts.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I note that our leaders are talking. Obviously, the tradition is to recognize or permit them to address the Senate, but I would like to speak just for a few moments this morning on a matter.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. KENNEDY. Yes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the leaders finish their statements, that Senator KENNEDY be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the intelligence reform bill. As our colleagues know, several amendments are currently pending to the bill, including the Specter intelligence consolidation amendment. We do hope to reach a time agreement on that amendment this morning, allowing us to vote on the Specter amendment. I know Senator SPECTER is here. I hope we make real progress on that amendment this morning. Hopefully, we can have a vote sometime this morning. The chairman and ranking member, of course, will be here to work through pending amendments as well as those that may be offered today.

I was just talking to the Democratic leader. We are going to have votes throughout the day, as we continue to move forward on this bill. In addition, because of a number of amendments we know we have to consider and will consider—I do not know the entire range—it is very likely that we will need to continue to work throughout today, tomorrow, possibly Friday, and we cannot rule out having votes on Friday, and indeed on Monday. Many times we try to schedule votes such that we pay deference to individual Senators' schedules, and we will try to do that as well.

On the other hand, as we all know, we are going to depart on October 8,

and with that we have a huge amount of business to do, with this very bill, the single greatest reform bill on intelligence in the last 50 years, and we need to continue to work with the extensions, the continuing resolution, address transportation, address welfare, and have the appropriations bills as well. So from a scheduling standpoint, I ask for real consideration by our colleagues in that we need to move expeditiously, get the amendments to the floor, and have them appropriately debated.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. FRIST. I am happy to yield.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the majority leader and I have been talking the last couple days with regard to the schedule for this particular bill. I would ask the majority leader if he could again indicate his desire, and certainly one that I can support, which would set in motion a series of events requiring today that all amendments be listed; that is, we would have a finite list, and that by tomorrow all amendments be filed, and that at some point in this debate, in the next couple of days, all amendments be offered.

I think it is very important for us to have a clear understanding of the universe of amendments that are there. If we get that finite list this morning, or sometime through the earlier part of the day, and then the order requiring that all amendments be filed so we know exactly what the language is for those amendments, and then offered, we would be in that position.

I ask the majority leader if that is his intent. And we could work through the day with that expectation in mind.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, through the Chair, in response, as we discussed yesterday, if we could get the list of amendments, I think we said by about 10 o'clock this morning—and I think those lists have been coming in—and the filing deadline, let's discuss that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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over the course of the morning. It would be great if we could do it even late today so we could work on those over the course of tonight. But, again, we defer to leadership and the managers, but it would be great to have that language. That would give people from last night over the course of today to finalize that language. So I agree weakheartedly.

I would just suggest that maybe we could have that filing deadline sometime today or this evening and have staff work over the course of the day rather than tomorrow. Again, it is just so that we can see what the universe is and we can systematically put a little bit of a sense of urgency on getting people to focus on the bill itself. But I agree wholeheartedly, let's have a list here in the next 20 minutes or so, and then mutually establish a filing deadline by which we can actually see the language.

Mr. DASCHLE. I would just ask the majority leader if it is his view as well, since these amendments require legislative drafting, that all Senators ought to understand that the period for drafting these amendments could expire as early as tomorrow. So they need to get their amendments to legislative counsel to make sure they are in concert with the pending bill. I ask if the majority leader shares that view.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I do. I think our colleagues can tell from the dialog going on that we, as leadership, are trying to give a framework to accelerate the process that is currently underway in discussing a very important bill. Our colleagues have met in various caucuses. I know a lot of our Members on this side of the aisle are meeting right now, and we are putting forth the same message to bring those amendments forward. And the managers will process those in an orderly way.

Mr. President, I want to very briefly comment on the bill. We received yesterday the administration's statement of policy that is in support of the Collins-Lieberman bill. I think that was a very important statement for us to receive to show the administration's strong support. In the expression of support, and support for passage of the Collins-Lieberman bill, there were comments made about certain provisions about which they have caution flags. That will be addressed appropriately on the floor of the Senate.

So I am glad we received the letter yesterday. It allows us to address many of those concerns through debate and amendment over today and tomorrow and the next several days.

The administration specifically backs the creation of a national intelligence director with—and I quote from the letter—“full, effective, and meaningful budget authorities and other authorities to manage the Intelligence Community, including statutory authority for the newly created National Counterterrorism Center.”

I mention that because it shows the huge support for reform. There is nothing

really that new about the reform. There have been 13 reports, national commissions over the last 10, 15, 20 years, 13 different ones urging intelligence reform. Now it is on the floor of the Senate. Indeed, we will accomplish that.

I do want to stress that we have both the reform of the executive branch, which is mainly the Collins-Lieberman bill, but we also have the internal reform within this body itself for oversight. Both of those, of course, were recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. The Democratic leader and I have a task force working on the internal reform. Both of those elements of reform are going to be dealt with before we depart. That is a lot of business to accomplish, and that is why there is a sense of urgency in moving along.

Yesterday, we voted on a number of amendments, including the McCain amendment and the Hutchison amendment. We will see more provisions of the McCain-Lieberman bill come through with amendments to be addressed on the Senate floor as they look at specific 9/11 recommendations.

We do want to do this expeditiously. After we pass the bill, we have to go to the conference with the House and work out any differences between the two bills.

I also want to mention briefly the news that came out regarding the FBI and the shortage of linguists to translate intelligence materials. That sort of news is alarming. After 9/11, we know we can't be behind the curve. Our enemies are smart. They are clever, resourceful. We have seen it time and again. We need an intelligence system that will block them at every turn. It is my hope that the Collins-Lieberman legislation will help address this problem. The recruitment of linguists is specifically cited as one of the issues the bill seeks to address.

Moreover, in the bill the new national intelligence director will have the authority to prioritize and allocate resources appropriately. Clearly, this issue would likely fall under that person's purview. Whether it is strengthening the FBI or buttressing the CIA or integrating our intelligence capabilities, these are among the many reasons we have to move with deliberate speed to finish this legislation. Nothing less than America's national security is at stake.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, in discussing these matters with the majority leader, there is somewhat of a rare consensus here that the two matters he has raised once again this morning are critical, not only to this body but to

the country, and must be addressed prior to the time we leave. The bill currently pending, managed so well by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN, and the task force and the effort to reorganize the legislative branch creating greater oversight and clearer lines of responsibility for intelligence are critical matters and high priorities. I hope we can continue to keep the discipline and focus on this legislation until we have successfully completed it.

I am optimistic, given the cooperation and the degree of comity on these matters, that we can complete our work, but I do believe it is going to take the kind of schedule that the majority leader and I addressed a moment ago.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICA'S HEROES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, over the past 4 years, as we have watched the heroism of our men and women in uniform, our Nation has gained a new awareness for the service and sacrifice of American soldiers. In communities all across our country, Americans are praying for the safe return of loved ones serving abroad. They are sending letters and care packages and small reminders of home. But they are counting the days until they can show the thanks they feel and our soldiers deserve face to face.

Few values bring Americans more closely together than our gratitude and respect for the men and women who serve in uniform to protect us. And today, all America is united in gratitude for the service of our Armed Forces and for the many sacrifices their families must make to accommodate their absence.

Regrettably, there are troubling signs that the tremendous burdens we have placed on their shoulders have begun to come at a cost. In recent weeks, we have learned that the National Guard and Reserves are having difficulty recruiting and retaining enough soldiers to defend our country. For the first time in a decade, the Army Guard is unable to meet its requirement for 350,000 soldiers. Too many soldiers are leaving and recruiting can't keep up.

A regular survey of reservists has found that the percentage of Army Reserve members who plan to reenlist has fallen from 69 percent in May 2003 to 59 percent in May 2004. There can be no doubt, the stress of long deployments and active duty are having an effect on recruiting.

Increasingly, our national security is put in the hands of the citizens soldiers of our National Guard and Reserve. When recruitment for the Guard and Reserve falls off, it threatens to undermine the readiness and the effectiveness of our Armed Forces. Let there be no doubt: Now more than ever, we need our Armed Forces to be strong and prepared enough to meet the threats we face today and those we may see tomorrow.